

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN
[MSIB # 09-09]
MAY 21, 2009
RI – NARRAGANSETT BAY – SAKONNET RIVER –
SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the new Sakonnet River Bridge immediately south of the existing bridge has begun and will continue until approximately May 2011. A safe work zone has been established to minimize risk to vessels transiting this area and prevent recreational traffic from entering the work zone which will involve three 250 ft by 72 ft barges, two 150 ft by 50 ft barges, multiple tug boats, and a temporary floating trestle system extending from the Portsmouth and Tiverton shorelines to the pier structures on each side of the channel, respectively. From the north, the safe work zone begins at the old railroad bridge and extends 800' south of the old Sakonnet River Bridge; the zone will be delineated by white buoys extending from each side of the channel to the shoreline.

A well marked channel has been established to allow vessels to transit through the safe work zone. The channel is marked with green buoys (15A, 15B, & 15C) on the west side of the temporary channel, and red buoys (16A, 16B, & 16C) on the east side. Vessels transiting through the safe work zone must stay within this channel and proceed at their slowest safe speed to minimize wake.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has contracted with Cashman Equipment Corp and Cardi Corporation for this project whose workboats will be monitoring VHF channel 11.